Application Number: 10/511,807

Attorney Docket: NL021156

IN THE CLAIMS

~~Please amend the claims as follows:~~

1. (Currently Amended) A method of coding a̶n̶ **multi-channel** audio signal, the method comprising:

- generating a monaural signal comprising a combination of at least two input audio channels **wherein the at least two input audio channels are time/frequency sliced such that they can be analyzed as a function of time,**

  determining a set of spatial parameters indicative of spatial properties of the at least two input audio channels, the set of spatial parameters including a parameter representing a measure of similarity of waveforms of the at least two input audio channels, and

  generating an encoded signal comprising the monaural signal and the set of spatial parameters, ~~wherein the step of generating an encoded signal comprising the monaural signal and the set of spatial parameters comprises~~ generating a set of quantized spatial parameters, ~~each introducing a corresponding quantization error relative to the corresponding determined spatial parameter, wherein at least one of the introduced quantization errors is~~ controlled to depend ~~on a value of at least one of the determined spatial parameters~~.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining a set of spatial parameters indicative of spatial properties comprises determining a set of spatial parameters as a function of time and frequency.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the step of determining a set of spatial parameters indicative of spatial properties comprises

- dividing each of the at least two input audio channels into corresponding pluralities of frequency bands;

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~~indicative of spatial properties of the at least two input audio channels within the corresponding frequency band.~~

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the set of spatial parameters includes at least one localization cue .

5. (Original)   A method according to claim 4, wherein the set of spatial parameters includes at least two localization cues comprising an interchannel level difference and a selected one of an interchannel time difference and an interchannel phase difference.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the measure of similarity comprises information that cannot be accounted for by the localization cues

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the measure of similarity corresponds to a value of a cross-correlation function at a maximum of said cross correlation function.

8. Cancelled.

9. (Currently Amended) An encoder for coding an **multi-channel** audio signal, the encoder comprising:

    - ~~means for time/frequency processing a multi-channel signal comprising a combination of at least two input audio~~ channels **wherein the at least two input audio channels are time/frequency sliced such that they can be analyzed as a function of time,**

    - means for determining a set of spatial parameters indicative of spatial properties of the at